THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, November 19, 1792.

The Hiſtory of Mr. Bethel; an intereſting and inſtructive Narrative.

[From "Deſmond, a Novel, in 3 Volumes, by Mrs. Charlotte Smith."]

I TOLD you in a former letter, that I would endeavour to give you a little of my dearly-bought experience. You know that I have been unhappy; but you are probably quite unacquainted with the ſources whence that unhappineſs originates. In relating them, I may perhaps convince you, that ignorance and ſimplicity are no ſecurities againſt the evils which you ſeem to apprehend in domeſtic life; and that the woman, who is ſuddenly raiſed from humble mediocrity to the gay ſcenes of faſhionable ſplendour, is much more likely to be giddily intoxicated, than one who has from her infancy been accuſtomed to them.

At one-and-twenty, and at the cloſe of a long minority, which had been paſſed under the care of very excellent guardians, I became maſter of a very large ſum of ready money, and an eſtate the largeſt and beſt-conditioned that any gentleman poſſeſſed in the county where it lay. I was at that time very unlike the ſober fellow I now appear; and the moment I was free from the reſtraint of thoſe friends, to whoſe guardianſhip my father had left me, I ruſhed into all the diſſipation that was going forward, and became one of the gayeſt men at that time about town.

With ſuch a fortune it was not difficult to be introduced into "the very firſt world." The illuſtrious adventurers and titled gamblers, of whom that world is compoſed, found me an admirable ſubject for them; while the women, who were then either the moſt celebrated ornaments of the circle where I moved, or were endeavouring to become ſo, were equally ſolicitous to obtain my notice; and the unmarried part of them ſeemed generouſly willing to forget my want of title in favour of my 12 or 13,000l. a year. I had, however, at a very early period of my career, conceived an affection, or, according to your phraſe, an ardent attachment to a married woman of high rank; but I had, at the ſame time, ſeen enough of them all, to determine never to marry any of them myſelf.

Two years experience confirmed me in this reſolution; but, by the end of that time, I was relieved from the embarraſſments of a large property. In the courſe of the firſt year, the turf and the hazard table had diſburthened me of all my ready money; and, at the concluſion of the ſecond, my eſtate was reduced to ſomething leſs than one half. I then found that I was not, by above one half, ſo great an object to my kind friends as I had been; and when, ſoon afterward, I was compelled to pay 5000l. for my *ſentimental* attachment; when the obliging world repreſented my affairs infinitely worſe than they were, and I became afraid of looking into them myſelf, I found the period rapidly approaching, when to this circle I ſhould become no object at all.

My pride now affected that, which common ſenſe had attempted in vain; and I determined to quit a ſociety into which I ſhould never have entered. I went down to my houſe in the county where almoſt all my eſtate lay; ſent for the attorney who had the care of my property, and, with a ſort of deſperate reſolution, reſolved to know the worſt.

This lawyer, whoſe father had been ſteward to mine, and to whom at his death the ſtewardſhip had been given by my guardians, was a clear-headed, active, and intelligent man; and, when he ſaw himſelf entruſted with fuller powers to act in my buſineſs than he had till then poſſeſſed, he ſet about it ſo earneſtly and aſſiduouſly, that he very ſoon got ſucceſsfully through two law-ſuits of great importance; raiſed my rents without oppreſſing my tenants; diſpoſed of ſuch timber as could be ſold without prejudice to the principal eſtate; ſold off part of what was mortgaged to redeem and clear the reſt; and ſo regulated my affairs, that, in a few months from the time of his entirely undertaking them, I found myſelf relieved from every

embarraſſment,

embarrassment, and still possessed of an estate of more than 5000l. a year. The seven that I had thrown away gave me, however, some of the severe pangs that are inflicted by mortified pride. Nabobs and rich citizens became the ostentatious possessors of manors and royalties in the same country, which were once mine; and some of my estates—estates that had been in my family since the Conquest, now lent their names to Barons by recent purchase, and dignified mushroom nobility. I fled, therefore, from public meetings, where I only found subjects of self-reproach, and made acquaintance with another set of people, among whom I was still considered as a man of great fortune; and where I found more attention, and, as I believed, more friendship than I had ever experienced in superior societies.

More general information and more understanding I certainly found; and none of my friends possessed a greater share of both than my solicitor, Mr. Stamford. He had deservedly obtained my confidence, and I was now often at his house, which his family seemed to vie in trying to render agreeable to me.

His wife was pleasing and good-humoured; he had several sisters, some married, and two single, who occasionally visited at his house; and it was not difficult to see, that in the eyes of the latter, Mr. Bethel, with his reduced fortune, was a man of greater consequence than he had ever appeared to the high-born damsels among whom he had lived in the meridian of his prosperity.

I was not, however, flattered by their attention, or attracted by their coquetry. They were pretty enough, and not without sense; but they had both been very much in London; and, I thought, too deeply initiated, if not into very fashionable societies, yet into the style of those which catch, with imitative emulation, the manners and ideas those societies give. Mr. Stamford seemed desirous of giving both these ladies a chance of success with me, for they were alternately brought forward for about twelve months; at the end of which time, they were both, perhaps, convinced, that they had neither of them any great prospect of it; for the family of a widow sister was invited, none of whom I had ever seen, or hardly heard mentioned before.

The father of this family, a Lieutenant in the army, had married the eldest of Stamford's sisters, when he was recruiting in the town where she then lived; by which he so greatly disobliged the friends on whom he depended, that, though he

 had

had a very large family, they never afforded him afterward the least assistance; and, about two years before the period I now speak of, he had died at Jamaica, leaving his widow and seven children, with very little more than the pension allowed by government to subsist upon. Of these children, the two eldest were daughters, who, from the obscure village their mother was compelled to inhabit in Wales, were now come to pass the winter, at the house of their uncle, in a large provincial town. On entering one morning Stamford's parlour, in my usual familiar way, I was struck with the sight of two very young women who were at work there; the elder of whom was, I thought, the most perfect beauty I had ever seen. When I met Stamford, I expressed my admiration of the young person I had just parted from, and enquired who she was; he told me she was his niece, and briefly related the history of his sister's family.

At dinner, as Stamford invited me to stay, I could not keep my eyes from the contemplation of Louisa's beauty, which, the longer I beheld it, became more and more fascinating. The unaffected innocence and timidity of her manners rendered her yet more interesting. She knew merely how to read and write, and had, till now never been out of the village, whither her mother had retired when she was only six or seven years old; and her total unconsciousness of the beauty she so eminently possessed, rivetted the fetters which that beauty, even at the first interview, imposed.

Her uncle was not, however, so blind to the impression I had received; yet he managed so well, that, without any appearance of artifice on his part, I was every day at the house: and, in a week, I was gone a whole age in love. I soon made proposals which were accepted with transport. I married the beautiful Louisa—and was for some time happy.

Mr. Stamford had immediately the whole management of my fortune, in the improvement of which he had now so much interest; and, in his hands, it recovered itself so fast, that though I made a very good figure in the country, I did not expend more than half my income. The money thus saved, Stamford put out to the best advantage, and I saw myself likely to regain the lost consequence I so much regretted: A foolish vanity, to which I sacrificed my real felicity.

Stamford, who had all the latent ambition that attends conscious abilities, as a man of business, had, till now, felt that ambition repressed by the little probability there was of his ever reaching a more elevated situation. But he saw and irritated

the

the mortified pride which I very ill concealed; and, by degrees, he communicated to me, and taught me to adopt thoſe projects, by which he told me I ſhould not only be relieved from this uneaſy ſenſation, but riſe to greater conſequence than I had ever poſſeſſed.—"You have talents," ſaid he, "and ought to exert them. In theſe times, any thing may be done by a man of abilities, who has a ſeat in Parliament. Take a ſeat in the Houſe of Commons, and a ſeſſion or two will open to you proſpects greater than thoſe you ſacrificed in the early part of your life."—I took his advice, and the following year, inſtead of ſelling, at a general election, the two ſeats for a borough which belonged to me, I filled one myſelf, and gave the other to Stamford, who, conſcious as he was of poſſeſſing thoſe powers, which, in a corrupt government, are always eagerly bought, had long been ſolicitous to quit the narrow walk of a country attorney, and mount a ſtage where thoſe abilities would have ſcope.

In conſequence of this arrangement, I took a large houſe in town; where Stamford and his family had apartments for the firſt four or five months. At the end of that time, he had managed ſo well, that he hired one for himſelf.—Artful, active, and indefatigable, with a tongue very plauſible, and a conſcience very pliant, he ſoon became a very uſeful man to the party who had purchaſed him. Preferments and fortune crowded rapidly upon him; and Stamford, the country attorney, was ſoon forgotten, in Stamford the confident of Miniſters, and the companions of Peers.

I was not, however, entirely without acquiring ſome of the advantages he had taught me to expect. I obtained, by what I now bluſh to think of (giving my voice in direct oppoſition to my opinion and my principles) a place of ſix hundred pounds a year; which, though it did little more than pay the rent of my houſe in town, was, as Mr. Stamford aſſured me, the foretaſte of ſuperior advantages. But, long before the cloſe of this ſeſſion of Parliament, I diſcovered, that far from being likely to recover the fortune I had diſſipated, I was, in fact, a conſiderable loſer in pecuniary matters. Alas! I was yet endeavouring to ſhut my eyes againſt the ſad conviction, that I had ſuſtained, a yet heavier, and more irreparable loſs—domeſtic happineſs and the affection of my wife.

Dazzled and intoxicated by ſcenes of which ſhe had till then no idea, Louiſa, on our firſt coming to town, entered, with extreme avidity into the diſſipation of London; and I indulged her in it, from the ſilly pride of ſhewing to the women among

whom

whom I had formerly lived, beauty which eclipsed them all. They affected to disdain the little rustic, whom they maliciously represented as being taken from among the lowest of the people. The admiration, however, with which she was universally received by the men, amply revenged their malignity; but, while it mortified them, it ruined me.

Louisa lived now in a constant succession of flattery, by which perhaps a stronger mind might have become giddy. She had Princes at her toilet, and nobleman at her feet every day; and from them she soon learned to imagine, that had she been seen before she threw herself away on me, there was no rank of life, however exalted, to which such charms might not have given her pretensions. That love, which till this fatal period she seemed to have for me—that gratitude of which her heart had appeared so full (for I had provided for all her family)—even her affection for her children, were drowned in the intoxicating draughts of flattery, which were every day administered to her; and when the time came for our returning into the country, she returned indeed with me; but I carried not back the ingenuous, unaffected Louisa, whose simplicity, rather than her beauty, had won my heart. Ah! no! I saw only a fine lady eager for admiration; willing to purchase it on any terms, and sullen and discontented when she had not those about her from whom she had been so accustomed to receive it. That happiness was lost to me for ever. I had long been conscious, but I still hoped to preserve my honour; and that I might detach my wife from those by whose assiduity it seemed to be the most endangered, I determined to make a journey into Italy. She neither promoted nor objected to the scheme: but a few days before that, which I had fixed on to begin our journey, she left the house, and put herself under the protection of a man who disgraces the name he bears.

I pursued the usual course in these cases; I challenged and fought with him; I was slightly, and he was dangerously wounded; and, by way of further satisfaction, I heard, that my wife attended him in his illness, and, as soon as he was able to travel, accompanied him to the south of France.

I then thought of pursuing that method of vengeance, which had some years before been successfully employed against myself, and had begun the preliminary steps toward it, when Stamford, the now prosperous uncle of my wife, undertook to dissuade me. He represented to me, that any money I could obtain, would only be considered as the price of my dishonour, and that such a publication of misconduct in the mother of my

children

children would be very injurious to them, particularly to my little girl; that, therefore, it would, upon every account, be better to ſuffer him to negociate an accommodation with him. I ſtopped him ſhort, without hearing to its cloſe this infamous and inſulting propoſal, and deſired him to leave my houſe; no longer doubting, from comparing this with other inſtances that now occurred to me, that he had ſold the perſon of his niece to her ſeducer, with as much *ſang froid*, as he had before ſold his own conſcience to the Miniſter.

Impreſſed by this opinion, and being too well convinced of the futility of thoſe chimerical plans with which he had lured me from independance and felicity, I determined never more to hold converſe with him, and to diveſt myſelf, as ſoon and as completely as poſſible, of all regret, for a worthleſs and ungrateful woman. I therefore took my affairs into my own hands, accepted the Chiltern Hundreds; and ſelling my ſeat for the remainder of the ſeven years, I reſigned at once my place at Court, and my place in Parliament; for by the latter I now felt, that I had unworthily obtained the former. Then, letting the family houſe where I had reſided in the neighbourhood of Stamford, I ſettled myſelf at this ſmaller place; the only property I poſſeſs at any conſiderable diſtance from my native county.

Here I have now lived nearly eight years, and between the education of my children, and the amuſement afforded me by my farm, I hope I ſhall end thoſe years at leaſt not ſo unhappily as they began. Of the woman once ſo beloved, I can now think with ſorrow and pity rather than reſentment, for ſhe is dead; and I wiſh her errors to be forgotten and forgiven by the world, as I have forgiven, though I cannot forget them. Though releaſed by her death from any matrimonial engagement, I have no intention again to hazard my happineſs, but apply all my time in improving the remains of my eſtate for my ſon—to render him worthy to enjoy it—and to educate my daughter in ſuch a manner, that although ſhe promiſes to poſſeſs her mother's beauty, ſhe may not be its victim. For this purpoſe, it will ſoon become neceſſary for me to quit occaſionally the ſolitude where I have regained my peace, and return to thoſe ſcenes among which I loſt it: For I am determined my little Louiſa ſhall ſee the world before ſhe is ſettled in it; that ſhe may learn to enjoy it with moderation, or reſign it with dignity.

HISTORY *of the* ENGLISH LONG-BOW.

[From Mosley's Essay on Archery.]

AS the English long-bow formerly held so distinguished a rank among the military weapons of Europe, and as many of the most important battles and conquests were obtained by the aid of English archers; it is necessary for me to insist, at some length, on the history of the bow in this island; were it only in compliment to the fame of our ancestors.

Whether the eulogies which have been so liberally passed on the English archers, by English writers, be perfectly just; and whether they really were more expert in the practice of this branch of war than many of the ancient nations, I think may be disputed. The perpetual attention paid to inure youth to the practice of the bow, by many warlike people of antiquity, was, I conceive, a much more severe discipline, than that of this country. Perhaps, indeed, our archers might derive a superiority from their bows being constructed on better principles, being more skilfully made, and of better materials than those used in other countries.

But leaving this point undiscussed, I shall now endeavour to trace the bow, in this island, during the early periods in which it seems to have been known; continuing the history through the several successive ages and reigns, till the period in which that instrument was discontinued, as a military weapon, in the English army.

Having had an opportunity of consulting a fine collection of chronicle-writers, and historians, I have been induced to spare no pains, in the investigation of this part of my subject. A tedious research has enabled me, however, to recollect only a few solitary facts, with respect to archery in this kingdom, before the time of the Norman invasion: But these few facts, I think, will prove sufficient evidence from which to judge of the state of the bow in the early ages.

I have been much surprized to find, that some of our historians, and particularly the more modern ones, have represented the English at the Battle of Hastings, as entirely ignorant of the effect of archery; and speak of the astonishment with which the troops were seized, in finding death inflicted on them, while the enemy was far at a distance. Speed observes, that the first discharge of arrows from the Norman army, "was a kind of fight both strange and terrible unto the English, who supposed their enemy had been already even in the middest among them."

them." Echard expreſſes the ſame ſentiment in his account of the battle with William. "The fight," he ſays, "began with great fury, order, and equal bravery on both ſides; in which the Engliſh were ſeverely galled by the thick ſhowers of arrows from the Norman long-bows, before the battle joined; which was a weapon then unuſed in England, and thereby the more ſurprizing, the wounds coming from enemies ſo far diſtant and not ſuddenly to be revenged."

Hume mentions nothing of this extraordinary ſurprize among the Engliſh troops, neither do Matthew Paris, nor many others. Sir J. Hayward ſays, the uſe of the bow was firſt brought into the land by the Normans, and that afterward the Engliſh being trained to the practice of it, became the beſt ſhooters in the world.

That the Engliſh could be ignorant of the bow at the Conqueſt, appears inconceivable, as both the Saxons and Danes made uſe of it in battle againſt the inhabitants of this country for many centuries previous to that time. It is true, there is no mention made of archers among the troops of Harold, but it does not follow that they were ignorant of the effect of archery, or that the bow was not then uſed in England.

At what time this inſtrument was firſt brought into the iſland, is uncertain; the hiſtory of our country extends with accuracy ſo few ages back, that it is impoſſible to aſcertain the true æra in which the bow was introduced.

It is pretty certain, however, that the inhabitants of Britain did not make uſe of this weapon in battle, at the time Julius Cæſar firſt viſited this country, as it is not enumerated among the arms of the natives, in the minute deſcription of them, given by that author.

The Romans, it is probable, introduced the bow as a military weapon into Britain, as archers often formed a great part of their auxiliary troops. The battles between the Romans and our countrymen, as deſcribed by Cæſar, do not, however, appear to have been carried on by the aſſiſtance of it. But from the ſecond book of the Commentaries, we find, that Cæſar had both Numidian and Cretan archers in his army, when he encountered the Belgæ, in Gaul; and it is reaſonable to ſuppoſe, that he alſo made uſe of them among his troops, when in Britain, about two years afterward.

During the reigns which ſucceeded that of Julius Cæſar, and when the Romans had ſettled themſelves on this iſland, archers are frequently made mention of as part of their troops: and it is probable, that the reinforcements often ſent to the army

in Britain, included many archers, as they would be employed with advantage againſt a people, to whom the uſe of the bow was not familiar.

We may therefore conclude, from the authority of hiſtory, that the Romans introduced the bow into this country; and that they continued it in uſe to their final departure, about the year four hundred and forty-eight.

In North Britain, the bow appears to have been known at leaſt as early, as it was in the ſouth; the works of Boethius and other hiſtorians of that country ſeem thus to intimate.

If the poems of Oſſian may be brought as evidence with reſpect to the ſtate of archery in later times, we may perceive that they uniformly repreſent the bow, as an attendant on the warrior and hunter. We learn alſo from ſome paſſages in theſe poems, that the yew-tree was then employed to form the weapons; "Go to thy cave my love till our battle ceaſe on the field. Son of Leith, bring the bows of our fathers! the ſounding quiver of Morni! Let our three warriors bend the yew."

Immediately on the Britons finding themſelves deſerted by the Romans, they ſought aſſiſtance from the Saxons, againſt their enemies the Scots; who haſtening to their relief, entered this iſland with an army, about the year four hundred and forty-nine. Theſe people are ſaid to have uſed both the long and croſs bows, and we may therefore be led to conclude, that archery was ſtill cheriſhed in this country by the new invaders.

During the Saxon heptarchy, we find that Offrid, the ſon of Edwin, King of Northumbria, was killed by an arrow, in a battle between the troops of that King and the united army of Mercians and Welſh, which was fought about the year ſix hundred and thirty-three, near Hatfield, in the Weſt-riding of Yorkſhire. But except this fact, little relating to the bow appears in our annals of the Saxon æra.

The Danes, as they arrived at a later period than the Saxons, come next under our review. Theſe war-like people were accuſtomed to the uſe of archery in battle, and we find it often noticed in this period, by our early chronicle writers. About the year eight hundred and ſeventy, they became very formidable and committed great depredations on the inhabitants of Eaſt Anglia. In one of their battles with the Eaſt Angles, they overcame their enemies, and took priſoner Edmund, King of that part of the iſland, whom, after inſulting with many indignities, they bound to a ſtake, for the Daniſh archers and

javelinmen

javelinmen to aim at; putting him to death by that cruel and ignominious expedient.

During the reign of Alfred, it ſeems probable, that archery was much in uſe, both in the army of the Danes, and in that of Alfred. I am inclined to this opinion from a paſſage in Aſſerius, who relates a curious anecdote concerning our good King. Alfred took refuge from the perſecution of the Danes, at a poor cottage, where he reſided unknown to his benefactors, who little imagined their roof protected a royal gueſt. It happened one day, ſays the writer, as the King ſat by the fire preparing his "bow, arrows, and his other warlike inſtruments," that the farmer's wife had placed ſome bread cakes upon the hearth to bake, ſuppoſing he would take care to turn them as they occaſionally required. He, however, neglected to do ſo; and the poor woman, enraged to ſee her cakes ſcorching by the heat, ran in haſte to ſave them, and ſaid to the ſtranger, "Thou fellow! (as Speed tranſlates it) doeſt thou ſee the bread burne before thy face, and will not turn it? And yet art thou glad to eat it before it be half baked?" Bows and arrows are here called warlike inſtruments, and we may with reaſon preſume, therefore, that they were uſed among the other weapons in battle. Polydore Virgil confirms this ſuppoſition; for ſpeaking of the troops of Ethelred, of which part were commanded by his brother Alfred, he ſays, a great number of archers were placed in the right wing of the army.

From this time till the æra of the Norman invaſion, little occurs with reſpect to archery; but it is well known how ſucceſsfully it was introduced by William, at the battle of Haſtings.

Bows and arrows are ſpoken of, at this fight, by all our hiſtorians: And the cataſtrophe of the battle fully proves the advantage which the invaders derived from theſe weapons. Many of our early writers neglect to particularize the kind of bow made uſe of by the Norman army, but John Roſs expreſsly ſays, the long-bow was uſed. Mr. Barrington is of opinion, that the croſs-bow was the inſtrument principally employed in the army of William, and the paſſages which have occurred to my obſervation, ſeem to prove the truth of his conjecture. From Sir John Hayward's account of William, it ſeems almoſt certain, that he himſelf uſed the croſs-bow.

No circumſtance worthy of obſervation occurs in our hiſtory, from the Conqueſt till the time of Henry the Second, in whoſe reign archery ſeems to have been firſt carried into Ireland, by the troops of that King. Lord Lyttelton, in his

 hiſtory

hiſtory of the life of Henry, ſays, "it is ſtrange that the Iriſh, who had much intercourſe with the Welſh before Henry the Second's time, ſhould not have learnt from that nation, who greatly excelled in archery, that arrows were better weapons to annoy an enemy with than ſtones, thrown by the hand without the help of ſlings, which, unleſs at a ſmall diſtance, could have little or no effect." The ſame author obſerves, that "from many inſtances, in the courſe of theſe wars, (the wars of Henry with the Iriſh) it appears, that the Engliſh conqueſts in Ireland were principally owing to the uſe of the long-bow in battle, which the Iriſh infantry wanted: And therefore Giraldus Cambrenſis, in his chapter entitled, *Qualiter Hibernica gens ſit expugnanda,* adviſes, that in all engagements with that people, archers ſhould be intermingled with the heavy-armed troops.

(To be concluded in our next.)

Intereſting Particulars of St. Joanna, one of the Camora Iſlands in the Indian Ocean.

THE iſland of St. Joanna is ſituated in the Indian Ocean, E. long. 44. 15. S. lat. 12. 30. The north ſide ſhoots out into two points, 26 miles aſunder, between which there is a great bay. This iſland is a proper place of refreſhment for the Eaſt India ſhips, whoſe crews, when ill of the ſcurvy, ſoon recover by the uſe of limes, lemons, and oranges, and from the air of the land. The town where the King reſides is at the eaſt ſide of the iſland; and though it is three quarters of a mile in length, it does not contain above 200 houſes. Their principal houſes are built with ſtone, with a quadrangle in the middle, and are only one ſtory high. All the other houſes, or rather huts, are ſlightly compoſed of plaiſtered reeds; and yet the moſques are tolerable ſtructures, very neat and clean in the inſide. The horned cattle are a kind of buffaloes having a large hump on their ſhoulders, which is very delicious eating; but there is not one horſe, mule, nor aſs, in all the iſland.—The original natives, in number about 7000, occupy the hills, and are generally at war with the Arabian interlopers, who eſtabliſhed themſelves on the ſea coaſt by conqueſt, and are about 3000 in number. Theſe latter are deſcribed by an anonymous letter writer as poor miſerable beings, who not being able to carry on any extenſive degree of cultivation, on account of their being expoſed to the depredations of the mountaineer

taineer natives, subsist chiefly by supplying the India ships who touch there for refreshment with a few cattle and tropical fruits. According to the same writer, the descriptions of this island and its inhabitants by the Abbé Raynal and Major Rooke, are not only exaggerated but erroneous; neither the country being so picturesque in beautiful landscapes as the former describes it, nor the inhabitants meriting the respectable character given of them by the latter. As we are not, however, competent to decide in this matter, we shall subjoin the entertaining account given by the Major; observing, in the mean time, that no anonymous account can deserve that degree of credit which is due to a writer of character, who, by affixing his name to his narration, is supposed to be conscious of his veracity, and, consequently, to court enquiry with the noble confidence of truth.

"Though Joanna is not the largest, yet it may be reckoned the principal of the Camora islands; it claims sovereignty over, and exacts tribute from, all the others: these pretensions it is however sometimes obliged to assert by the sword, and at present meditates an expedition against Mayotta, which is in a state of rebellion. The natives on being asked the cause of their war with that people, reply, 'Mayotta like America.' They get their supplies of arms and ammunition from ships that touch here; and the arrival of so large a fleet as the present will prove very seasonable to them, as it is customary for all to make presents of arms and powder to the Prince when he pays a visit on board, which he does to every one. A salute is the compliment due on that occasion; but as our guns are shotted, an apology is made for the omission of that ceremony, and the Prince readily admits of it, provided he receives a number of cartridges equal to the guns that would have been fired.

"The King lives at a town about 12 miles off on the east side of the island: two Princes of the blood reside here; who on going their round of visits fail not to ask for every thing they see that strikes their fancy; and of course the honour of making a present to a Prince, induces one at first readily to grant what they request: but no sooner is that done than they make fresh applications, till we are reduced to the rude necessity of putting the negative on most of them. These great personages are very richly dressed and attended by a numerous suite of slaves, who, like their princely masters, are much struck with the objects they see, but use less ceremony in their manner of obtaining them. These black Princes (for that is the complexion of them and all the inhabitants) have by some means or other obtained the title of Prince of Wales and Prince

Will:

Will: the former has probably been called ſo by ſome jocoſe Engliſhmen as being the heir apparent, and the natives have adopted the term, not the only one they borrow from us."

The following account of this ſingular cuſtom lately appeared in all the public prints, and is a laughable confirmation of Major Rook's accounts: The natives of St. Joanna, among many other whimſical cuſtoms, have one, which ſeldom fails to excite the aſtoniſhment of the young navigator. They beg an Engliſh name of the ſailors who touch at their iſland, and, of courſe, names of the greateſt eminence are liberally given by our tars.

"Thus, when the natives come to viſit the ſhips which ſtop at the iſland, it has happened that *Charles Fox* has humbly ſolicited the waſhing of linen, and the *Prince of Wales* has requeſted a preference for his vegetables; *Mr. Pitt* has been detected in ſtealing a blanket, and the *Duke of Bedford* has been known to beg for a tenpenny nail."

"They have an officer ſtyled Purler Jack, who ſeems to be at the head of the finance department. Of Dukes they have a prodigious number, who entertain us at their hotels for a dollar per day, and give us for dinner very good rice and curry.—Theſe noblemen, together with a numerous tribe of others of all ranks, make the earlieſt applications to every one to ſolicit the honour of his company and cuſtom; even before the ſhip has let go its anchor, they come along ſide in their canoes, and produce written certificate of their honeſty and abilities from thoſe who have been here before: the purport of which is to inform you that the bearer has given them good cheer, waſhed their linen well, and ſupplied their ſhip punctually with all ſorts of refreſhment.

"The effect is ſtriking and ſingular on entering the road to ſee a vaſt number of canoes, which are made of trunks of trees hollowed out, with three or four black fellows in each, their faces turned toward the front of the canoe, with paddles formed like a ſpade, digging away in the water, and moving with no ſmall velocity. To keep theſe cockle-ſhells ſteady, and prevent them from overſetting, they have what is termed an outrigger: it is compoſed of two poles, laid acroſs the upper part of the canoe, and extending ſeveral feet beyond the edges thereof on each ſide, joined at the extremities by two flat pieces of wood, ſo that it appears like a ſquare frame laid acroſs the canoe: they are very long, but ſo narrow that one perſon can only ſit breadthways.

"The

" The price of every article here is regulated; and each ship has its contractor, who engages to supply it with necessaries at the established rate.

" We find no other animals for our sea provisions but bullocks, goats, and fowls: the season for oranges is past, but we get most other tropical fruits; and whatever we want, have only to give in a list to a Duke, and he provides us therewith. This, it will be thought, is a new character for a Duke to appear in, and such it seems to be; but it is in fact only owing to the mode: they are their own stewards, and dispose of the produce of their estates themselves, which noblemen of other countries do by the intermediate aid of an agent: they at least act consistently with their characters by an urbanity of manners, which one is surprized to meet with in a people inhabiting a small spot secluded from the rest of the civilized world. They have a regular form of government, and exercise the Mahometan religion: both were introduced by the Arabians who passed over from the continent and subdued the country. The original Joanna natives are by no means thoroughly reconciled to this usurpation, and still look upon their conquerors with an evil eye. Like their sentiments, so are the colour of these two races of men very different: the Arabs have not so deep a tinge as the others, being of a copper complexion, with better features, and a more animated countenance. They consider a black streak under the eyes as ornamental; and this they make every day at their toilettes with a painting brush dipt in a kind of ointment. The custom of chewing the betel nut prevails greatly here, as in the most of the eastern countries; and answers to the fashion of smoking tobacco or taking snuff with us, except that with them it is more general. No one is without a purse or bag of betel; and it is looked on as a piece of civility to offer it to your friend when you meet him or take leave.

" Their religion licenses a plurality of wives, and likewise concubines. They are extremely jealous of them, and never allow any man to see the women: but female strangers are admitted into the haram; and some English ladies, whose curiosity had led them there, make favourable reports of their beauty, and richness of apparel displayed in a profusion of ornaments of gold, silver, and beads, in form of necklaces, bracelets, and earrings; they wear half a dozen or more in each through holes bored all along the outer rim of the ear.

" The men seem not to look with an eye of indifference on our fair countrywomen, notwithstanding they are of so different

a complexion.

a complexion. One of the firſt rank among them being much ſmitten with an Engliſh young lady, wiſhed to make a purchaſe of her at the price of 5000 dollars; but on being informed that the lady would fetch at leaſt 20 times that ſum in India, he lamented that her value was ſo far ſuperior to what he could afford to give.

"Theſe people are very temperate and abſtemious, wine being forbidden them by the law of Mahomet. They are frequent in prayer, attending their moſques three or four times a-day. We are allowed to enter them on condition of taking off our ſhoes. Theſe buildings are regular, but quite plain.—In prayer the people proſtrate themſelves on the ground, frequently kiſſing it and expreſſing very fervent devotion.

"Joanno town is cloſe to the ſea, ſituated at the foot of a very high hill, and about a mile and a half in circuit. The houſes are incloſed either with high ſtone walls or palings made with a kind of reed; and the ſtreets are little narrow alleys, extremely intricate and forming a perfect labyrinth. The better kind of houſes are built of ſtone within a court-yard, have a portico to ſhield them from the ſun, and one long lofty room where they receive gueſts, the other apartments being ſacred to the women. The ſides of their rooms are covered with a number of ſmall mirrors, bits of china ware, and other little ornaments that they procure from ſhips which come here to refreſh: the moſt ſuperb of them are furniſhed with cane ſophas covered with chints and ſattin mattraſſes. Moſt of the people ſpeak a little Engliſh; they profeſs a particular regard for our nation, and are very fond of repeating to you, that 'Joanna-man and Engliſh-man all brothers;' and never fail to aſk 'how King George do?' In general they appear to be a courteous and well diſpoſed people, and very fair and honeſt in their dealings, though there are among them, as in all other nations, ſome viciouſly inclined; and theft is much practiſed by the lower claſs, notwithſtanding the puniſhment of it is very exemplary, being amputation of both hands of the delinquent.

"The inhabitants of this iſland, like thoſe of moſt hot and tropical countries, are indolent, and do not improve by their labour the richneſs of that ſoil with which nature has bleſſed them. Climate here favours vegetation to ſuch a degree as requires little toil in the huſbandman; but that little is denied: ſo that beyond oranges, bananas, pine apples, cocoa nuts, yams, and purſlain (all growing ſpontaneouſly) few vegetables are met with. Nor are the natural beauties of the iſland inferior to its other advantages of plenty and fertility; the face of the

country

country is very picturesque and pleasing, its scenes being drawn by the bold strokes of Nature's masterly pencil: lofty mountains clothed to their very summits, deep and rugged valleys adorned by frequent cataracts, cascades, woods, rocks, and rivulets, intermixed in 'gay theatric pride,' from the landscape.—Groves are seen extending over the plains to the very edge of the sea, formed principally by the cocoa-nut trees, whose long and naked stems leave a clear uninterrupted passage beneath; while their tufted and overspreading tops form a thick shade above, and keep off the scorchings rays of the sun. In these we pitch our tents and enjoy a short relief from the *ennui* of a tedious voyage.

"In the interior part of the island, surrounded by mountains of a prodigious height, and about fifteen miles from this town, is situated a sacred lake, half a mile in circumference. The adjacent hills, covered with lofty trees, and the unfrequented solitude of the place, seem more calculated to inspire religious awe in those who visit this sequestered spot, than any sanctity that is to be discovered in a parcel of wild ducks inhabiting it, which are deified and worshipped by the original natives, who consult them as their oracles on all important affairs, and sacrifice to them. Being extremely averse to conduct strangers there, they stipulate that all guns should be left at a place five miles from the lake. The worship paid to these birds ensures their safety and tranquillity; and rendering them of course perfectly tame, they fearlessly approach any one who goes there. The Arabian part of the islanders hold this barbarous superstition in the utmost detestation; but dare not forbid the practice of it, so bigotted to it are the others."

TRANSLATION *of* GRAY's ELEGY.

By Mr. PERCEVAL.

Continued from Page 474.

LA main qui dispensa la vertu dans les cœurs,
N'alluma point en eux ces désirs sanguinaires
Cette soif des tyrans, qui pour de vains honneurs,
Déchirent sans pitié les membres de leur frères.

Sur leur front ingénu toujours la vérité,
Fut par la vertu même à la pudeur unie;

Le mensonge loin d'eux, par l'orgueil acheté,
Grossit les sons flatteurs d'une muse avilie.

Etrangers aux désirs, loin du fracas des cours,
Satisfaits de leur sort, riches dans l'indigence,
Tel une onde limpide insensible en son cours,
Ils vécurent en paix au sein de l'innocence.

Par l'amour élevé, près d'eux l'on voit encore
Un frêle monument de structure grossière,
Où la muse rustique en son langage implore
Du passant arrèté le soupir tributaire.

Sherborne Grammar School.

(To be continued.)

Dr. Robertson's Account of the Mode of transporting the Productions and Manufactures of India by Land-Carriage, and the Origin of Caravans.

THE original station allotted to man by his Creator, was in the mild and fertile regions of the East. There the human race began its career of improvement; and from the remains of sciences which were anciently cultivated, as well as of arts which were anciently exercised in India, we may conclude it to be one of the first countries in which men made any considerable progress in that career. The wisdom of the East was early celebrated, and its productions were early in request among distant nations. The intercourse, however, between different countries was carried on at first entirely by land. As the people of the east appear soon to have acquired complete dominion over the useful animals, they could early undertake the long and toilsome journies which it was necessary to make, in order to maintain this intercourse; and by the provident bounty of Heaven, they were furnished with a beast of burden, without whose aid it would have been impossible to accomplish them. The camel, by its persevering strength, by its moderation in the use of food, and the singularity of its internal structure, which enables it to lay in a stock of water sufficient for several days, put it in their power to convey bulky commodities through those deserts, which must be traversed by all who travel from any of the countries west of the Euphrates towards India. Trade was carried on in this manner, particularly by

the

the nations near to the Arabian Gulph, from the earliest period to which historical information reaches. Distant journies, however, would be undertaken at first only occasionally, and by a few adventurers. But by degrees, from attention to their mutual safety and comfort, numerous bodies of merchants assembled at stated times, and forming a temporary association (known afterwards by the name of a caravan), governed by officers of their own choice, and subject to regulations of which experience had taught them the utility, they performed journies of such extent and duration, as appear astonishing to nations not accustomed to this mode of carrying on commerce.

ANECDOTES.

IT was with great difficulty, and much management, that Mr. Nelson, and the others in friendship with those in the assassination-plot, kept Sir J. Fenwick from squeaking, and making discoveries; but at length they bethought themselves of making interest to get him beheaded instead of hanged; and that did it; secured him and them (but very differently). It was so unlike a gentleman to swing, that he could not bear the thoughts of it; but he was quite proud of being beheaded. Much the same thing was said of Mr. Ratcliff in the last rebellion.

CARDINAL MAZARINE had a glimpse of a gentleman's taking out a bag of gold from a drawer, when he thought himself unobserved, and after some time was going off; when his eminence called him back, and told him, " he had something to say to him ;" and carrying him into another room, turned to him, and calmly letting him know he noted his theft, told him, that " as he supposed he might have some present occasion for money, he was welcome to what he had got, and that he would even double it," which he immediately did, but bade him " never come into his presence again. I can pardon a friend," said the Cardinal, " who has abused me, but I cannot trust him."—Turkish Spy, Vol. III. L. 23.

THE modern Greeks bear some resemblance to that Italian gamester, who after an intolerable run of ill-luck, exclaimed with perfect *nonchalance*, " No, no, thou jade, Fortune! Thou mayest indeed cause me to *lose* millions, but I defy thy utmost power to make me *pay* them."

BIBLE manufacturers take the lead of all the impostures of the day. One man advertises to explain all the texts, in Scripture, which he says " nobody understands."

A Lady who presumed to make some observations, while a physician was recommending her husband to a better world, was told by the doctor, that if some women were to be admitted there, their tongues would make paradise a *purgatory*; and if some physicians, replied the lady, were to be admitted there, they would make it a *desert*.

Answer, by T. T. S. of Exeter, to R. Craze's Anagram, inserted September 17.

WOT, ye gents, if chang'd aright,
The number TWO is brought to light;
Again transposed it will shew,
That the part of a plant is TOW;
Put an *L* instead of *T*,
Transpose the whole an OWL 'twill be;
Transpos'd again LOW will explain,
The state of those who're poor and mean.

†‡† We have received the like answer from J. B. Chivers, of St. Austell; W. Elliott, of Kingsbridge; Fidelio, Bath; M. Barrett, Exeter; A. Pinn, Exmouth; W. Smith, Grampound; J. Platts, of Plymouth; T. Walker, of Hemyock; J. Spry, of Wiveliscombe; J. Salter, of Payhembury; and J. C. of Tavistock.

An ANAGRAM, *by T. Jostling, at Chard Academy.*

A Verb if you aright transpose,
A Scripture name you will disclose.

A QUESTION, *by John Tucker, of Penryn.*

QUERE the solidity of the two pillars of brass (supposing them to be cylindrical) that Hiram cast for King Solomon, mentioned in the 15th verse of the 7th chapter of the 1st Book of Kings, and likewise their weight by avoirdupoise.

An

An ENIGMA, *by Thomas Walker, of Hemyock.*

INGENIOUS BARDS, and wits of fame,
We now ſtand forth to have a name;
Now in the autumn of the year,
'Tis ſudden death makes us appear;
We are an ancient, warlike race,
If you our anceſtors would trace;
Some thouſand years we've been no doubt,
As you with eaſe will ſoon find out;
Like bold invaders we ruſh forth,
Towards the ſouth, ſometimes the north;
Tho' formidable we appear,
We ſing for joy, and mind no fear;
Where we our camp do fix indeed,
Our enemies fall back with ſpeed;
Should they attack our ſovereign ſeer,
We'll ſoon engage them front and rear;
Like vet'rans bold, with pointed dart,
We'll give them wounds in every part;
We ſometimes ſtand, and ſometimes fly,
And ſometimes fight until we die;
But ſhould the people we ſurprize
Be loyal, juſt, and civiliz'd,
Then they no harm from us need fear,
But live in peace, like neighbours near;
Another hint before I end,
That you the anſwer right may ſend—
In ſacred Scripture you may ſee,
An enigma once made on we.

‡‖‡ *Some perſon who called himſelf* D. Robarts *ſent the information noticed in the Entertainer for October* 8 *reſpecting the Queſtion copied from the Ladies Diary. And as we do not wiſh to inſert more than* one *Anſwer to any Queſtion, we think it beſt to decline taking any further Notice of the Circumſtance.*

† *The Enigma, and other Pieces, ſent by the Perſon who aſſumed the curious Name of* Clyclopaedia *were ſo very wretched, that they were altogether unfit to appear in Print.*

‖‡‖ *Our Correſpondents are requeſted to obſerve that it is expected they ſhould pay the Poſtage of their Letters, and that otherwiſe they will not ſee what they ſend inſerted.*

POETRY.

POETRY.

Stanzas from an Ode to Genius.

By Mr. EMETT.

WITHIN the feeling heart,
Coy, callow neſtlings, firſt,
Ere yet they dar'd depart,
Were dulcet numbers nurſt:
At length their flight they prove
Launch'd by adventurous love:
For thou, Oh Genius! to the yielding ſoul
Of ſome young lover wert at firſt convey'd;
He felt, celeſtial gueſt! thy tranſports roll,
When gazing on his modeſt maid;
And, as enamour'd on her charms he hung,
Love freed thy genial fire, and loos'd his tuneful tongue.

But Oh! when down the woodland ſide
The minſtrel ſtrays, all wan and lorn—
The flame he could no longer hide,
His cruel miſtreſs daſh'd with ſcorn.
Grief now, Oh Genius! opes the ſacred ſource,
And ſtreaming ſorrow gives thy language force:
A cypreſs garland, lo! he wildly weaves;
He takes his lute, his laſt ſad tale to tell,
And, dying, all his plaintive ſweetneſs leaves
To his poor moaning woodmate, Philomel;
The plaintive ſweetneſs floats thro' midnight air
As if the ſoul's expreſſion ſtill were there.

Yet hark! an eſſay ruder far—
The brazen cadence, and the menac'd war!
No longer now, ye ſhepherd ſwains,
Upon your native fertile plains
Attend your fleecy cares:

Huſh'd

Hush'd be the sighing voice of love!
And to the coverts of the grove
Ah fly, ye timid fair!
Already on your silver-shelving strand
Invasion pours his bliss-destroying band—
For Envy, with malignant leer,
Your pastures rich and pleasures dear
Surveys, and bids him stem the billows' roar,
To wade thro' other seas of human gore.

The wood-bird, having hail'd the morning prime,
Thro' the lone vale or copse unnoted strays;
While, on strong wing, the eagle soars sublime,
And basks undazzled in the noontide blaze:
Thus we, Oh Monarch of the Mind!
Thro' days remote and less refin'd,
Have tried to trace thy beamy way.—
To attempt thy now more potent ray,
Demands the steady aid of powers
More bold and daring far than our's;
Than our's, which, trembling, ne'er before took wing
Beyond a lay of love, or carol to the spring.

The affectionate Mother and her Child.

[From Dr. Darwin's Poem, entitled " The Botanic Garden.]

SO when the mother, bending o'er his charms,
Clasps her fair nurseling in delighted arms;
Throws the thin kerchief from her neck of snow,
And half unveils the pearly orbs below;
With sparkling eye the blameless plunderer owns
Her soft embraces, and endearing tones,
Seeks the salubrious fount with opening lips,
Spreads his inquiring hands, and smiles, and sips.
Connubial fair! whom no fond transport warms
To lull your infant in maternal arms;
Who, bless'd in vain with tumid bosoms, hear
His tender wailings with unfeeling ear;
The soothing kiss and milky rill deny
To the sweet pouting lip, and glistening eye!
Ah! what avails the cradle's damask roof,
The eider-bolster, and embroider'd woof!

Oft

Oft hears the gilded couch unpitied plains,
And many a tear the taſſel'd cuſhion ſtains!
No voice ſo ſweet attunes his cares to reſt,
So ſoft no pillow as his mother's breaſt!

Thus charm'd to ſweet repoſe, when twilight hours
Shed their ſoft influence on celeſtial bowers,
The cherub, Innocence, with ſmile divine,
Shuts his white wings, and ſleeps on Beauty's ſhrine.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

ADDRESS *to the* DERWENT.

[From a Monody written at Matlock, in Derbyſhire, by the Rev. W. L. Bowles.]

THEE, quiet ſtream! with other thoughts I view,
Like Peace, a hermit in ſome craggy dell
Retir'd, and bidding the loud throng farewell,
I ſee thee ſtill thy peaceful courſe purſue,
Making ſuch gentle muſic as might cheer
The weary paſſenger that journeys near.

Such are the ſongs of Peace in Virtue's ſhade,
Unheard of Folly, or the vacant train
That pipe and dance upon the noon-tide plain,
Till in the duſt together they are laid;
But not unheard of him, who ſits ſublime
Above the clouds of this tempeſtuous clime,
Its ſtir and ſtrife, to whom more grateful riſe
The humble incenſe, and the ſtill ſmall voice
Of thoſe that on their penſive way rejoice,
Than ſhouts of thouſands echoing to the ſkies,
Or ſongs of triumph pealing round the car
Of hard ambition, or the friend of war,
Sated with ſlaughter—Nor may I, ſweet ſtream,
From thy lone banks and limits wild depart,
(Where now I meditate my penſive theme)
Without ſome mild improvement on my heart,
Pour'd ſad, yet pleaſing: So may I forget
The croſſes and the cares that ſometimes fret
Life's ſmootheſt channel, and each wiſh prevent,
That mars the ſilent current of Content!